

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claims presented in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for reducing a level of amyloid- β ($A\beta$) peptides in vivo, which method comprises administering an $A\beta$ level reducing dose of an estradiol ~~estrogen~~ compound or a conjugated equine estrogen composition to an animal, wherein the animal has an increased level of $A\beta$, and wherein the dose of the ~~estrogen~~ estradiol compound or conjugated equine estrogen composition does not affect soluble APP levels.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of ~~amyloid- $A\beta$~~ $A\beta$ is a level of soluble ~~amyloid- $A\beta$~~ $A\beta$ in the brain of the animal.
3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the estradiol ~~estrogen~~ compound is 17 β -estradiol.
4. **(Cancelled).**
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the $A\beta$ peptides comprise $A\beta$ 42 and $A\beta$ 40, which method further comprises reducing the ratio of $A\beta$ 42 to $A\beta$ 40.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the $A\beta$ peptides are $A\beta$ 42 peptides.
- 7-19. **(Cancelled).**
20. **(Cancelled).**
21. **(Cancelled).**
22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3 ~~20~~, wherein the 17 β -estradiol is administered daily for at least ten days.
23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3 ~~20~~, wherein the 17 β -estradiol is administered by a controlled release device.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 20, wherein the animal exhibits at least one symptom associated with Alzheimer's disease ~~disease or disorder associated with amyloidosis is Alzheimer's disease.~~
25. (Cancelled).
- 26-30. (Cancelled).
31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 4, wherein the dose of conjugated equine estrogen composition is administered to a human and is selected from the group consisting of 0.3 mg, 0.625 mg, 1.25 mg, and 2.5 mg.
32. (Cancelled).
33. (Cancelled).
34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 20, wherein the A β level reducing dose is about 0.5 μ g 17 β -estradiol per kg body weight to about 50 mg 17 β -estradiol per kg body weight, per day.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the A β level reducing dose is about 5 μ g 17 β -estradiol per kg body weight to about 10 mg 17 β -estradiol per kg body weight, per day.